

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 04601 151357Z

17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

EB-07 FEA-01 ERDA-05 OES-06 ACDA-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

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R 151227Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2462

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY REKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 4601

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, NO, FI

SUBJECT: FINLAND'S PRESIDENT VISITS NORWAY

SUMMARY: FINNISH PRESIDENT KEKKONEN'S TWO-DAY "NON-OFFICIAL" VISIT TO OSLO WILL INVOLVE POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS ON NORTHERN DEVELOPMENTS, EAST-WEST RELATIONS AND ENERGY COOPERATION. THE NORWEGIANS WILL SEEK TO EXPLORE AND RELAX POSSIBLE FINNISH CONCERNS ABOUT NORWEGIAN POLICY DURING THE VISIT. END SUMMARY

1. FINLAND'S PRESIDENT URHO KEKKONEN ARRIVES IN OSLO SEPT 15 FOR TWO-DAY "NON-OFFICIAL" VISIT. HE WILL BE GUEST OF NORWAY'S KING OLAV V FIRST DAY OF VISIT, WHILE ON SEPT 16 HE WILL BE JOINED BY FOREIGN MINISTER SORSA AND COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER LEHTO FOR POLITICAL TALKS WITH NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NORTH, EAST-WEST RELATIONS AND ENERGY COOPERATION ARE EXPECTED TO BE MAIN TOPIC OF CONVERSA-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OSLO 04601 151357Z

TION.

2. ACCORDING TO FAM US AND WESTERN EUROPEAN DESK OFFICER LANGAKER, FINNS PRESSED THE NORWEGIANS FOR VISIT AND NORWEGIANS HAD TO DO SOME IMPROVISING TO COMBINE A "NON-OFFICIAL" VISIT WITH HEAD OF STATE MEETING AND GOVERNMENT TALKS. LANGAKER SAID FINNS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSING SOME CONCERN OVER NORWAY'S INCREASINGLY STRONG "PRO-WESTERN" FOREIGN POLICY STANCE, AND VOICED DESIRE TO DISCUSS THIS AND OTHER ISSUES. NORWEGIANS ARE PUZZLED BY THIS FINNISH CONCERN, AND WILL SEEK IN THE TALKS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS MATTER, OUTLINE NORWAY'S POLICY IN THE NORTH AND ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS, AND HOPEFULLY DEMONSTRATE THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN A CONSISTENT NORWEGIAN FOREIGN POLICY.

3. LANGAKER SAID NORWEGIANS THINK IT IS POSSIBLE THAT FINNS MAY BE USING THIS ALLEGED CONCERN AS A MEANS OF STRENGTHENING THEIR HAND IN GETTING INTO OIL AND GAS COOPERATION WITH NORWAY. FINNS ARE INTERESTED IN SUCH COLLABORATION AND HAVE INDICATED THIS IS ONE OF MAIN AREAS THEY WANT TO DISCUSS WHILE KEKKONEN IS HERE. NORWEGIANS HAVE HAD BILATERAL TALKS WITH FRG, DENMARK, AND SWEDEN ON OIL, GAS AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION AND HAVE HAD INITIAL DISCUSSIONS ON SUBJECT ALSO IN NORDIC COUNCIL FRAMEWORK. LANGAKER SAID THEY WILL HAVE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH FINNS ON SIMILAR COOPERATION IN THE FUTURE, POSSIBLY LATER THIS YEAR OR EARLY NEXT YEAR. FINNS ARE INTERESTED IN ALTERNATIVE OIL AND GAS SOURCES AND PROVIDING EQUIPMENT FOR OFFSHORE ACTIVITIES.

4. NORWEGIANS PLAN SEEK TO GET KEKKONEN'S EVALUATION OF SOVIET VIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH, AND FINNISH-SOVIET AND EAST-WEST RELATIONS. KEKKONEN WILL MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER NORDLI AND SORSA WILL HOLD TALKS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND. MINISTER LEHTO WILL HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH NORWEGIAN INDUSTRY MINISTER GJERDE. NORWEGIANS DO NOT EXPECT KEKKONEN'S NUCLEAR FREE ZONE PROPOSAL TO COME UP, SAID LANGAKER, BUT IF IT DOES THE FIRM NORWEGIAN OPPOSITION TO IT WILL BE RESTATED.

5. KEKKONEN'S LAST OFFICIAL VISIT TO NORWAY WAS IN 1961. HE VISITED HERE PRIVATELY IN 1966 AND ATTENDED CROWN PRINCE HARALD'S WEDDING IN OSLO IN 1968.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OSLO 04601 151357Z

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CONFIDENTIAL

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